

My Contribution Goes to...

Worship & Music Arts \$295,050

Worship ministry brings everyone together to encounter God through the shared experiences of praising Him, bringing our cares and petitions to Him, hearing and proclaiming God's Word, and being inspired to go and be the active Body of Christ in the world. Our worship is supported by music, creative arts, and technical arts. 19 music and worship arts groups, over 400 children, youth, and adults give of their time and talents through Music and Worship Arts Ministries.

Children's Ministry \$60,380

The Children's Cluster is involved in creating new opportunities for faith and community to the children and families in our congregation and in the Ankeny community.



The Cluster is actively involved in outreach events including the Easter Egg Hunt, Super Summer Daze, Trunk or Treat, Advent Festival, and Parent's Night Out events. Our Children's Cluster also oversees the Birthday Card Ministry, Children's Mission Projects (VBS, Mitten Tree and Wish Tree), Worship Bag Ministry, nursery/childcare, and other children's ministry projects.

Education Ministry \$73,660

The Education Cluster includes many areas of children's ministry—from Sunday School at all three sites, to Wednesday Night Programming, Vacation Bible School, Palm Sunday and Easter Celebrations, and many other areas where we reach out to children and families to become followers of Jesus Christ. Through these programming activities, the Education Cluster is able to provide Lenten and Advent Family Devotions, Third Grade Bibles, Kindergarten Bibles, and summer camp scholarships.

Discipleship Ministry \$109,585

The Discipleship Cluster was formed by joining the Connection Cluster and the Adult Cluster into one team that follows and supports people from their first visit throughout their Christian walk here at Ankeny First. We offer welcoming hospitality for all who enter our doors, from worship to Soul Food Café. The Discipleship Cluster also helps people connect through small groups. We believe that small groups are vital to growing deeper in our faith and connecting with each other as a faith community. We offer structured programs such as Alpha and Financial Peace University, as well as our own "home grown" sermon series small groups, which allow participants to dig deeper and discuss the sermon heard that week with videos produced by our own pastors.

Sports Ministry \$54,226

Sports Ministry provides a unique opportunity to our church family to be active together while building our faith and sense of community. In addition to that, our programs offer a non-threatening entry point to individuals in the community who do not have a home church and/or those who are looking for faith-based programming. Sports Ministry includes fitness, sports, and recreation opportunities for both adults and kids.



Youth Ministry \$111,880

The Youth Ministry strives to empower our youth with the understanding that they are not the *future* of Christianity, but the present! We are an open door to the community, and welcome all youth looking for a place to call their own. Whether it is just a place for them to relax and escape the pressures of life for an hour or two, or a place for those seeking to grow deeper in their faith, no one is turned away. Programs include Spark (6th-8th grade), Ignite (9th-12th grade), and Confirmation.

Administrative Support \$453,590

We are blessed to have so many talented volunteers and staff, but in order to make the most of the gifts and resources God has given us, we must have a reliable support staff and resources in place to fund these ministries. Like most businesses, there are costs needed to run the day-to-day operations such as administrative staff, training, payroll taxes, insurance, postage, banking/credit fees, etc. The time and resources involved are essential to our mission as we continue to be welcoming and inviting to all who contact the church.

Property Management \$462,075

All of the great and amazing work that God does here each and every day requires another foundation to support it. One of the larger expenses of providing an open and inviting space is the ongoing use, safety, repairs, and maintenance required at all three of our unique campuses. When you think about all of the meals, small groups, hosting of families, sports activities, support, encouragement, planning, worship opportunities, and outreach of ministry that take place across our three campuses on a daily basis, it is truly a blessing how God is able to multiply the impact over and over.



Debt Reduction \$50,000

The Finance Committee, with approval from Church Council, is phasing in additional principal payments toward the mortgage debt on the Christian Life Center. These additional principal payments will not only lessen the impact in future budget years, but will also shorten the length of time needed before the mortgage is paid off entirely.

Christian Care Ministry \$87,590

The Christian Care Cluster's mission is to reflect God's love and bring wholeness and healing to God's people through support, education and service. Through the various ministries that make up the Christian Care Cluster, we strive to connect and care for all those God has brought to us. Through the ups and downs of life, from our Military Ministry Team to our Hospital & Care Center Visitation Team, it is especially important for our church family to be there for each other and through the Christian Care Cluster, and we do just that.

Recovery Ministry \$59,050

The Recovery Cluster serves the call of offering encouragement, comfort, understanding, and a clear path of discipleship to those in the recovery community. One of the major components is The Road of Recovery worship service every Saturday night, which provides transportation to and from multiple rehabilitation facilities and a simple meal.

Mission Cluster \$38,780

Mission giving at Ankeny First has been very generous as we understand how important it is to help those in need. The majority of our mission giving comes from designated gifts from our church family. The only budgeted items are: the agreed upon support to two partner churches - Women at the Well and Trinity Las Americas United Methodist Church; funding for our annual 2-week mission trip in support of our partners at Malawi UMC in Malawi, Africa; and to missionaries in Zimbabwe, Africa.

Conference Apportionments \$325,054

As the largest United Methodist church in Iowa, we contribute a significant amount to our Iowa Conference through what are called "apportionments." Through these contributions, we collaborate with United Methodist churches all around Iowa, and throughout the world, in the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world (the United Methodist Mission Statement). From colleges, camps, new churches, disaster relief, community service centers, to raising up new pastors/leaders, etc., we are able to accomplish much more than we could on our own.

DEFYING GRAVITY

1 Timothy 6:17

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

Why is giving important?

The Bible has much to say about giving, with 2,300 verses that tell us to be generous and to be good stewards of our resources. Your giving is a key marker for your life of faith and enables our church to do the work that God calls us to do.

How does our church use my Estimate of Giving?

Your estimate of giving card is used to set a realistic goal for our annual operating budget and to ensure that we have the funding necessary so we can Defy Gravity.

2019 Budget Summary

 Your contributions are vital to the successful ministries of Ankeny First United Methodist Church. We cannot support all of our ministries and serve all the people that we do without your generosity – and you do make a difference in the lives of many. While the final budget will be determined by the response each of us gives to this finance campaign, the working budget has been recommended at \$2,180,920. That is a 2.5% increase of expenses over the 2018 adjusted budget.

The ministry clusters and committees have worked hard to review their expense requirements and to keep their expenses as level as possible. However, some increases were necessary for staff cost of living increases and trustees' building maintenance contracts and repairs.

To see an explanation of expenses presented both as narrative and line-item budgets, go to the Give page on our website www.AnkenyFirst.org or find copies at our Welcome Centers.

Giving online or through your mobile device has never been easier with **PushPay!**



With PushPay, you can:

- Give easily, quickly, and security from anywhere, anytime
- Set up recurring donations
- View your giving history
- Pay the credit card & processing fees which ensures Ankeny First will receive 100% of your donation

How to start:

- Visit www.AnkenyFirst.org/give.htm and click on Online Giving. This will take you to the secure giving link and allow you to make your donation.
- Grab your phone and text **AnkenyFirst** to **77977**. You'll receive a text back with instructions to start giving and an invitation to download the PushPay App.



Here at Ankeny First, we are excited to share the stories and inspirations that surface each and every day through your generous support of our annual local budget.

We invite you to take a look at each ministry area included in our annual budget, and join us in celebrating what God is doing among us and through us here at Ankeny First!

Through your continued, dedicated giving, you demonstrate the value of *Defying Gravity*.



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